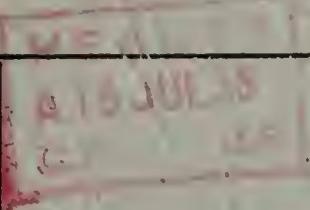


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BOURNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
For the Year 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Medical Officer of Health:

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer:

W. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

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BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the vital statistics, health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District.

I took up duty in July 1954, on the implementing of the decision to combine the appointments of Medical Officer of Health for the Bourne Urban District, South Kesteven Rural District and the Borough of Stamford with that of Assistant County Medical Officer. This is an arrangement which allows of a close integration and marrying up of the clinical side of the work with the environmental to the mutual benefit of each.

The Birth Rate of 13.31 per thousand estimated population is lower than the rate of England and Wales of 15.2. The Death Rate at 11.50 does not differ significantly from the rate for England and Wales of 11.3. It will be noticed that I am making use of the comparability factor.

The health of the District has been good during the year and there were no epidemics of notifiable diseases. It is seven years since a case of diphtheria occurred in Bourne. May I be allowed to re-iterate here the tremendous importance of having every child in the community fully protected against this former, and be it not forgotten that it is still a potential scourge.

Vaccination against Small Pox has lost its public appeal and response. Yet with distance being annihilated by speed the infection could be imported more readily than of yore. Would our defences hold?—It is a thought provoking question. These protective procedures have won battles for us in the past. While consolidating these gains we wish well to the Research Workers and Field Workers who are endeavouring to win contemporary victories in the fields of Tuberculosis with the B.C.G. Vaccine and Poliomyelitis.

Research is also continuing in the important subject of mental health, and its maintenance amidst the strains and stresses of modern life—Here is a fresh challenge to preventive medicine.

Diseases of the Cardio Vascular System register as the principal causes of death, followed by Malignant Growths. Deaths from Carcinoma of the lung and bronchus were two.

In the sphere of Housing, the Rents and Repairs Act of 1954, modifying some of the restrictions of the Housing Act of 1949, has given further legal powers to the Council in the task of saving houses which are worthy of it. It is regrettable that building costs show no downward trend as this would be the greatest stimulus in the task of replacing sub-standard houses and meeting the demand for new homes.

It is hoped that the new Sewage Works will very soon be seen as it is a great necessity.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Members of the Council and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their great help and interest in all aspects of the work. I would also like to thank my Colleagues on the Staff for their unfailing co-operation and assistance.

Finally I wish to thank Dr. Galletly for so kindly standing by for me when I have been away.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	10,103
Population—Registrar General's Figures 1954	...					5,030
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,623
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£26,745
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£103 9s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1954.

Note Birth and Death Rates.

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death Rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as Nett Rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Bourne U.D. are 0.97 and 0.89 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

		Male	Female	Total
Total Live Births	...	33	36	69
Legitimate	...	33	34	67
Illegitimate	...	0	2	2

Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.72
Nett live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	13.31
Rate for England and Wales	... ... ... 15.2

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	...	I	0

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	14.29
Rate of England and Wales	... ... ...	...	24.0

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	...	36	29

Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	12.92
Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	11.50
Rate of England and Wales	... ... ...	11.3

	Male	Female	Total
No. of deaths	...	0	I
Legitimate	...	0	I
Illegitimate	...	0	0

Rate per 1,000 of live births	...	...	...	14.49
Rate of England and Wales	... ... ...	...	...	25.5

The one death occurred in the neo-natal period, i.e. under 4 weeks of age.

	Male	Female	Total
No. of deaths	...	0	I
Legitimate	...	0	I
Illegitimate	...	0	0

Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	I	I
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung ,bronchus	...	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	I
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	—	2
Diabetes	...	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	2	5
Coronary disease angina	...	5	I
Hypertension with heart disease	...	—	2
Other heart disease	...	II	II
Other circulatory disease	...	3	—
Pneumonia	...	3	2
Bronchitis	...	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	I	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	—	I
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	—
Congenital Malformations	...	—	I
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	—	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	I	—

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Nursing in the Home.

Under the County Council Scheme there are two District Nurse Midwives.

Home Helps.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council in approved cases. The Local Headquarters are at the North Street Clinic, Bourne. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m.

Health Visiting.

Under the County Council scheme one full-time Health Visitor is employed for work within the Urban District and she also covers some of the surrounding area.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service continues to work smoothly and efficiently. There are 2 ambulances and one sitting-case car stationed at Bourne Ambulance Depot and one at the Isolation Hospital. Attendants are provided by the B.R.C.S. and St. John's.

Full Hospital Services are provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Bourne Isolation Hospital each Thursday afternoon under Dr. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at the Out-Patient Department Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Males Mondays and Wednesdays 5.30—7 p.m.

Females Tuesdays 10.30—12 noon.

 ,, 5.30—7 p.m.

Infant Welfare

An Infant Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council at the National School, North Street, Bourne, and a School Clinic is held in the same premises each Thursday morning.

Free Diphtheria Immunisation is provided by the Medical Practitioners under the County Council Scheme.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough under Dr. D. H. Fulton. This valuable service includes examination of milk and water samples and general bacteriological examinations for both the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Service.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Medical Practitioners in Bourne for their ready help and co-operation with the work of the Health Department.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The water supply is obtained from the Lincolnshire Limestone by means of a 13 inch bore.

The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. It is chlorinated as a routine, and it is obtained as a bulk supply from the Spalding U.D.C. Water Undertaking.

Sewage.

The Sewage Works which did good work for many years is now outdated and overloaded, and an increasing dry weather flow to be disposed of makes the position worse. Plans for a new works have been submitted for Ministry Approval and it is hoped that the commencement of the project to answer a great need will not be long delayed.

During the year 5 vault closets were converted to water closets.

Vermin Infestation.

One case of Infestation was reported and treated.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Total
Under													
1 year	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
1-2	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	13
2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-4	-	-	2	-	1	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	10
4-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	6	-	-	17
9-15	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	1	6
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-35	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
35-45	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
45-65	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	12
65 and over	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Totals	-	-	13	-	5	26	7	-	14	-	-	7	72
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6

There were 72 cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease during the year compared with 60 in 1953. There were no epidemics during the year, the greatest incidence being that of Whooping Cough 26 compared with 11 in 1953 and Pneumonia 13 (7 in 1953). The seven cases of Paratyphoid occurred in the St. Peter's Hospital, Bourne (Sheffield Regional Hospital Board), among the Mental Defective inmates.

The first case occurred in June, one in July and five in August. A prolonged hunt was made for carriers amongst the Staff and patients and for this work we were indebted to the ready co-operation of Dr. Croll and his Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln as well as the Peterborough one.

Such occurrences as this are known to be a hazard of Mental Deficiency Institutions and it would appear to be a constructive step if provisions were made at Regional level for an Isolation Hospital for Mental Defectives already in Institutions and suffering from *Salmonella* infections, *inter alia*.

There were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis during the year.

Until a fully effective and safe immunising agent is available we must continue to fight this disease with a high standard of personal and domestic hygiene and clean food handling.

There were no cases of Diphtheria in 1954—the last being in 1947. Only by keeping up a high level of immunity in the community by ensuring that the Infants, Toddlers and School Children are fully protected can this state of affairs be expected to continue. I want every parent to know the danger and folly implicit in failing to take advantage of the simple and free immunisation procedure.

During the year the policy was adopted of sending a letter to the parent in any household where a case of infectious disease was notified giving him a résumé of his main responsibilities under the Public Health Act in preventing the spread of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY IN 1954: New Cases. Deaths.

Age Periods	Non Pulmonary				Non Pulmonary			
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—5	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—25	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55—65	I	-	-	-	I	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1954—the first since 1950.

There were 5 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified in the year compared with 3 in 1953; 5 in 1952; 5 in 1951 and 2 in 1950.

Though advances in Medical and Surgical treatment have greatly reduced the mortality from Tuberculosis, the incidence has not shown a corresponding decline and an ever vigilant watch must be maintained on the contacts and the after care of cases.

I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Bernard Royce and the Staff of the Chest Clinic for their helpful co-operation.

HOUSING

Statistics of new houses erected in the Bourne U.D.C. area during 1954:

		1954	1953
	New housing units provided by the Council ...	28	58
	New housing units provided privately ...	... 7	11
1	INSPECTION OF HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.		1954
1.	(a) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	... 60	60
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	162	
2.	(a) Number of houses found to be in a state not fit for human habitation and not capable of being made so fit or not capable of being made so fit at reasonable expense ... ... ... ...	... 26	
	(b) Number of houses (excluding those in 2 (a)) found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation	33	
2	REMEDY OF DEFECTS IN HOUSES DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.		
	(a) Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Authority or its Officers	24	
	(b) Number of unfit houses demolished without the service of formal notices	1	
3.	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.		
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... ...	... Nil	
B.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:		
(i)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring remedy of defects ...	5	

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:						
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) by Authority in default of Owners	...					Nil
c. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:						
(1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...		13
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...		5
(3) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were given	...	...	...	...		5
(4) Number of houses converted to other use in pursuance of such undertakings	...	...				3
d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
e. Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:						
(1) Number of Clearance Areas made during the year (submitted to the Minister)	...	...	...	...		I
(2) Number of houses included in the Area	...					4
f. Proceedings under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:						
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	I
g. Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts:						
Number of houses in respect of which Certificates of Disrepair were issued	...	...	...	...		I
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV. OVERCROWDING.						
1. (a) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Number of families resident therein	...					12
(c) Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	...		46
2. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					23½
5. HOUSING ACT, 1949.						
Number of grants approved in respect of the improvement, adaptation or conversion of housing units during the year	...	...	...	...		2

The Housing Rent and Repairs Act 1954 conferred additional powers to the Council in relation to unfit houses and to provide Exchequer Assistance for certain aspects of the work—modifying some of the restrictions of the 1949 Housing Act.

It provided for Grants for the improvement and conversion of houses and it entitled house owners who bring their property into good general repair and keep it in that condition, to obtain a repairs increase of rent.

It laid upon the Council the responsibility of preparing by 31st August, 1955, their proposals for Slum Clearance to be made effective within the following five years.

An extensive survey of sub-standard houses has already been carried out and the extent of the problem has been measured. The next step is the formulation of a scheme to deal with the problem progressively in the next few years. It will be costly but it can and will be done, bringing a new happiness to many. It is important that sufficient provision be made in the future building programmes for the older people who require small compact dwellings.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This year was marked by the end of Ministry of Food Control over Slaughterhouses and Meat distribution. This change over was effected in a smooth and efficient way which was achieved by the good will and spirit of co-operation on the part of all concerned.

The Council now control their own slaughterhouse and there are two other slaughterhouses within the Urban District. 100% meat inspection is maintained.

The premises from which ice-cream is sold are kept under supervision. It is regrettable that a more reliable test than the Methylene Blue one cannot be found on which to base the standards for ice-cream.

Your Sanitary Inspectors keep a watch on food premises and on the handling of food. This is a most important part of the work of the Health Department in the light of the number of notified cases of dysentery and Food Poisoning occurring in the Country each year.

The water supply to the watercress beds within the Urban District are kept under supervision.

Further details will appear in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Food Poisoning.

No case of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

National Assistance Act.

No action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act has been necessary during the year.

Health Education.

The doctor at the Clinic, the Sanitary Inspectors in their daily contacts with the public and of course the Health Visitor on the County Medical Officer of Health's Staff endeavour in and out of season to preach the gospel of good personal hygiene and a healthy way of living. It is hoped that these efforts, unspectacular at the time may eventually reap the reward of increased positive health and the happiness which accompanies it.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the following sections in
continuance of the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Water Supplies.—It is pleasing to record that the Council's water mains have been extended to Dyke Village and that the Wood View Scheme has been commenced.

Swimming Baths provided by the Bourne United Charities have been the subject of routine attention and periodic sampling for bacteriological examination revealed the water to be satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal and Drainage.—With thirty-five new dwellings, industrial extensions and five vault-closet conversions added during the year to the already grossly overburdened and unsatisfactory sewage works the problem in this direction is serious.

The provision of the long-awaited replacement works capable of efficiently dealing with the Town's discharges will be a great relief.

Refuse Collection.—Refuse is collected weekly in the Town area and once a fortnight at Dyke, Cawthorpe and North Fen area. A voluntary trade collection is made on payment of costs. A survey was made of the refuse receptacles in use by householders and the like and whilst the situation is now considerably improved there is still room for some householders to show more consideration for the refuse collection staff and the health of the community at large. In conjunction with a Resolution by the Council that dustbins in use in the area must conform to B.S.S. 792, fifty-two informal notices were issued for the replacement of unsatisfactory receptacles.

Rodent Control.—Periodic treatment of sewers, sewage works, refuse-tip and slaughterhouse was carried out during the year; complaints of rat and mice infestation were investigated and the necessary action taken by the Rodent Operator.

A total of 35 premises were visited on complaint and survey; 19 dwellinghouses, 8 business and 4 agricultural premises received treatment.

Disinfestation.—One house was treated for vermin.

Public Health and Housing Acts. — The following matters arising out of complaints were dealt with:—

		Complaints	Notices:	
			Informal	Formal
Offensive watercourses	..	3	3	—
Conversion of vault closets	..	5	5	—
Housing defects	...	16	12	—
Keeping of animals	..	6	6	—
Insufficient or unsatisfactory water supply	..	7	7	5
Defective drainage	..	11	11	—
Accumulation of refuse	..	5	4	—
Defective or inadequate dustbins	..	1	1	—
Other matters	..	5	5	—

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Meat Inspection.—In the first six months of the year animals intended for human food were slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Central Slaughterhouse and, under Ministry licence, at a private slaughterhouse dealing with horses. On de-control in July, the Council assumed control of the Central Slaughterhouse and, in addition, licensed two further private establishments. From July the business in this connection was at least treble that experienced previously under control but facilities proved adequate, justifying the Council's resolution to not licence other premises.

Ante-mortem inspection of animals awaiting slaughter was carried out wherever possible and post-mortem examination of carcases and offal was made in all cases.

A total of 9,265 animals (excluding horses) were examined for fitness for human food during the year and this figure may be analysed as follows:—

Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves
34	690	998	245	318
		Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	
		3,020	3,960	

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption was:—

Meat	Offal
44 tons, 19 cwts., 23 lbs.	12 tons, 11 cwts., 21 lbs.

The following table gives details of carcases and offal examined and particulars of diseases found and the extent to which the animals were affected. In addition a number of carcases or parts were considered unfit by reason of injury and affections other than disease.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	969	998	318	3,020	3,960
All diseases except					
Tuberculosis:					
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	16	32	20	41	69
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	81	208	1	42	253
Percentage of number examined affected with disease other than					
Tuberculosis ...	10.01	24.05	6.60	2.75	8.13
Tuberculosis:					
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	13	61	1	1	5
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	72	315	3	—	125
Percentage of number examined affected with Tuberculosis					
	8.77	37.68	1.26	0.03	3.28
	<i>13</i>				

Meat Inspection (Horses).—A total of 588 horses were slaughtered and examined at a private slaughterhouse licensed for the purpose; the following approximate weight of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Meat	Offal
11 cwts. 102 lbs.	19 cwts. 60 lbs.

Milk Supplies.—The District is supplied with milk by five retailers operating in the area; the bulk of supplies is designated milk, i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised, sold under licences issued by the Council.

Food Premises.—Routine visits and inspections were made of the various food shops, restaurants and cafes in the District during the year and it was ensured that at least the minimum hygienic standards were maintained pending new legislation expected to be provided under the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954. Generally, the standard of the food premises in the area is good.

In addition to the normal food premises, the public houses in the area have been the subject of attention and these premises are continually the subject of improvement particularly in regard to the matters of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

The following unsound food was examined in shops, etc., and voluntarily surrendered:—

Canned vegetables	...	...	...	13 lbs. 12 ozs.
Canned, bottled or dried fruit	...	...	156 lbs.	1 oz.
Meat products	...	...	67 lbs.	5 ozs.
Miscellaneous foodstuff	...	...	18 lbs.	10 ozs.

Condemned Food.—All unsound meat and offal is disposed of to a local firm. Other condemned foodstuff is destroyed under supervision.

Ice-cream Manufacture.—The one manufacturer of this commodity discontinued during the year and no such establishments are now in operation in the District.

Watercress Beds.—There are four beds in the Area and these have received attention during the year. After preliminary sampling of the waters used in the processes some improvements were effected with the ready co-operation of the owners concerned. The supplies are satisfactory.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

The following tables show the inspections made and action taken:—

	No. on Register	Informal Inspections	Notices
(1) Factories without Mechanical Power —Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority 	14	5	—
(2) Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority 	45	31	4
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority 	2	1	—
(4) Premises in which Part VIII is administered 	1	—	—

Nine cases of defective, unsuitable or inadequate sanitary conveniences and one case of uncleanliness were remedied during the year without resort to formal action.

Five Certificates of Adequacy of Means of Escape in Case of Fire were approved and issued.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support given me by my staff and fellow officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. HOWARD.

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer.

